

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 69

By Campbell

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Sister Nena DeMatteo on the celebration of her eighty-ninth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Sister Nena DeMatteo will celebrate her eighty-ninth birthday on February 17, 2021, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, born in Nashville on February 17, 1932, Sister Nena DeMatteo grew up in the city with her parents and two older brothers; in the 1940s, she attended St. Bernard Academy, where she dominated the tennis court, played first base on the softball team, and was a forward on the girls' basketball squad; and

WHEREAS, at the age of eighteen, Sister Nena entered the Sisters of Mercy convent, and in her years as a postulate and a novice, she served in Memphis, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Knoxville, finishing her education and taking her orders; and

WHEREAS, Sister Nena DeMatteo returned to St. Bernard Academy in 1970 as a reading teacher for students in first, second, and third grades; she was known for her small group instruction and encouraging presence as students learned to sound out words, as well as the book club she hosted after school; and

WHEREAS, her teaching philosophy was simple but profound: children will learn at their own pace, but they will bloom in their own time; when a child began to read, it gave her goosebumps; and

WHEREAS, during her thirty-five-year tenure at St. Bernard Academy, Sister Nena taught countless children how to read and write, sparking a love of words and books that continues to this day; among her beloved former students are bestselling author Ann Patchett and Senator Heidi Campbell; and

WHEREAS, since her retirement from St. Bernard Academy in 2005, Sister Nena has continued to serve her community, volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul's in North Nashville, teaching Pre-K at Christ the King School, tutoring neighborhood children, and teaching adult literacy; and

WHEREAS, as Sister Nena DeMatteo approaches her tenth decade, she is still an active and productive member of society who is admired for her wisdom, spirit of generosity, integrity, and enthusiasm for life; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Sister Nena DeMatteo on the celebration of her eighty-ninth birthday and extend to her our best wishes for many happy returns of the day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.